



FEMA

DRAFT
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
for
SEVENTH WARD MAIN FIRE STATION /INTRACOASTAL CITY FIRE SUB
STATION RELOCATION
VERMILION PARISH, LOUISIANA
FEMA-1607-DR-LA

BACKGROUND

Hurricane Rita, a Category 3 hurricane with a strong storm surge, made landfall on September 24, 2005, causing catastrophic damage to the western parishes of Louisiana. Maximum sustained winds at landfall were estimated at 120 miles per hour. President Bush declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana due to damages from Hurricane Rita and signed a disaster declaration (FEMA-1607-DR-LA) on September 24, 2005, authorizing the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide federal assistance in designated areas of Louisiana. FEMA administers this disaster assistance pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), PL 93-288, as amended. Section 406 of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA's Public Assistance Program to repair, restore and replace facilities damaged as a result of the declared event.

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA regulations to implement the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared. The purpose of this EA is to analyze the alternatives and assess the potential environmental impacts associated with the relocation of two existing fire stations to a proposed new facility to be constructed. FEMA will use the findings in this EA to determine whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The project proposed involves the construction of a new fire station including three fire truck bays, training and meeting rooms, a kitchen, restroom and storage. A sleep room will also be required because the fire station will be manned 24 hours a day. The total building area for the proposed station will be approximately 3523 square feet. The building will be wood frame with prefabricated galvanized metal wall panels on a reinforced concrete pad. The proposed site owned by the Vermilion Parish Police Jury at 20206 LA Hwy 82, Abbeville, LA, 70510 (29.85706N and 92.17704W). The proposed site is 1.5 acres which includes an open field with several trees, a fence and a barn shed. The site preparation will consist of excavation on site approximately 100' x 100' x 10'

deep to elevate the building pad to the elevation of 12.50 mean sea level (msl). The existing ground elevation is 6.5 +/- msl. Building construction will require excavation for footing and the installation of utilities with site grading for drainage.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

A legal notice was posted in the Abbeville Meridion and The Baton Rouge Advocate and the Draft EA was made available for public review at Vermilion Parish Library and Abbeville City Hall from November 8, 2007, to November 23, 2007. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and this initial Public Notice will also serve as the Final Public Notice.

FINDINGS

FEMA has evaluated the proposed project for significant adverse impacts to geology, soils, water resources (surface water, groundwater, and wetlands), floodplains, coastal resources, air quality, biological resources (vegetation, fish and wildlife, Federally listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitats), cultural resources, socioeconomics (including minority and low income populations), safety, noise, hazardous materials, and traffic. The results of these evaluations as well as consultations and input from other Federal and state agencies are presented in the draft EA. Based on the information analyzed, FEMA has determined that the implementation of the proposed action would not result in significant adverse impacts to the quality of the natural and human environment. In addition, the proposed project does not appear to have the potential for significant cumulative effects when combined with past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (44 CFR Part 10) and the proposed project as described in the EA may proceed.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of the implementation of the project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize Federal funds:

- The Vermilion Parish Police Jury proposes to construct a mechanical treatment plant for managing wastewater generated by the fire station on site. This would result in the discharge of treated effluent from the sewerage treatment plant to the drainage ditch south of the proposed facility. If this ditch is connected to surface water body (waters of the U.S.), then the facility will require a permit from LDEQ's water quality program under the Clean Water Act.
- A storm water pollution prevention plan must be prepared and best management practices for storm water management must be implemented to minimize any detrimental effects to water quality during construction.
- To reduce potential short term effects to air quality from construction related activities, the contractor is responsible for using best management practices to reduce fugitive dust generation and diesel emissions.

- The contractor is required to follow the local noise ordinances for the city of Abbeville as stated above.
- All construction activities must be conducted in a safe manner in accordance with Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) requirements.
- If during the course of construction, unanticipated archaeological artifacts (prehistoric or historic) or human remains are discovered, the applicant must stop all construction activities and notify FEMA and the Louisiana Division of Archaeology at 225-342-8170 within seventy-two hours of the discovery. Failure to comply with these stipulations may jeopardize receipt of FEMA funding.
- Hazardous materials used in construction of the new facility must be managed (stored, used, transported, and disposed of) in accordance with federal, state, and local hazardous waste, hazardous material, and hazardous substance requirements. If hazardous substances are released to the project area during construction, these federal, state, and local requirements must be followed in response and cleanup.

APPROVAL

Brent Paul
FEMA Environmental Officer
FEMA Headquarters

Date

Howard R. Bush, Environmental Liaison Officer Date
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

James Stark, Director
Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office
FEMA-1603/1607-DR-LA

Date